

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application and have been examined. With this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2 and 13-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-12 and 16-21 will be pending in the application.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as allegedly failing to show the claim limitations of "the connecting portion being disposed on an outer surface." Applicant respectfully submits that amendments to the claims delete this limitation thereby overcoming this objection. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation of "the connecting portion being disposed on an outer surface of the housing." Applicant respectfully submits that amendments to the claims delete this limitation thereby overcoming this objection. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-21 — 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement with respect to the connecting portion being disposed on an outer surface of the housing. Applicant respectfully submits that amendments to

the claims delete this limitation thereby overcoming this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19 and 20 --- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1 and 3, and dependent claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Guss in view of Fuchs. Applicant traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite a board side connecting portion and a terminal side connecting portion formed at a proximal end of a housing, and at least one discrete connection terminal disposed in the housing and having a proximal end which is exposed on the board side connecting portion and a distal end which is exposed on the terminal side connecting portion, wherein proximal end of the discrete connection terminal forms electrical connection to a circuit board which is provided on the board side connecting portion, and the distal end of the discrete connection terminal forms electrical connection to at least one conductor of a flat cable at the terminal side connecting portion. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are fully supported by the disclosure at least, for example, at pages 6-8 and FIGS. 1, 3A and 3B. These features are not disclosed or suggested by the combination of Guss and Fuchs as cited by the Examiner in the Office Action.

As disclosed by Guss, both a circuit board (15) and a conductor (L3) of a cable (18) are connected to a distal end (head portion 82) of a connection terminal (socket contact 23), and a proximal end of the connection terminal is connected to a plug of a functional device (see column 4, line 43-56). Fuchs discloses both a circuit board (22) and a conductor (14) of a cable (15) are connected to a distal end (tip 27 and spread portion 28) of a connection terminal (contact 16), and a proximal end of the connection terminal forms a plug (11) which is connected to the

functional device. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner since the references, individually or in combination, would not have disclosed or suggested all of the claimed features.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 are patentable over the combination of Guss and Fuchs. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20, which depend from one of claims 1 and 3, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Claim 2 --- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 has been rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Guss and Fuchs, and further in view of Boyle. Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Guss, Fuchs and Boyle does not disclose or suggest at least the above-noted features incorporated into claim 2 by virtue of its dependence from claim 1. As established above, the combination of Guss and Fuchs fails to disclose at least these features. Boyle does not cure the deficiencies of Guss and Fuchs. Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made had been motivated to combine the references, the combination would still not result in the features claimed by Applicant.

Thus, claim 2 is patentable over the combined references.

Claim 4 --- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Guss and Fuchs, and further in view of Arnett. Applicant traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 4 contains features similar to the features recited in claims 1 and 3. As established above in the arguments for those claims, the combination of Guss and Fuchs fails to disclose or suggest at least those features. Arnett does not cure the deficiencies of the Guss-Fuchs combination. Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made had been motivated to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner, the combination would still not result in all the features claimed by Applicant.

Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Guss, Fuchs and Arnett.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 --- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Dependent claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Guss, Fuchs and Arnett, and further in view of Archer. Applicant traverses this rejection.

Dependent claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 incorporate the features of claim 4 which, as established above, are not disclosed or suggested by the combination of Guss, Fuchs and Arnett. Archer does not cure these deficiencies. Thus, even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made had been motivated to combine the references, the combination would not result in the features as claimed.

Therefore, dependent claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 are patentable over the combination of Guss, Fuchs, Arnett and Archer.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis G. Plati, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

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